

REMARKS

The Applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 1-20 are pending. Claims 1-5 and 7-19 are amended and these claims do not add new matter. Claims 1, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, and 16 are independent. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein.

Reasons for Entry of Amendments

At the outset, it is respectfully requested that this Amendment be entered into the Official File in view of the fact that the submission of the English translation of the priority document (KR 10-1998-41937, filed on October 2, 1998) makes the rejection based on primary reference (Kahn et al., filed on October 9, 1998) improper. Thus, claims 1-20 are believed to be in condition for allowance.

In the alternative, entry of this Amendment is deemed proper because the amendments to the claims improve form and correct minor informalities, and do not necessarily raise new issues that would require further search and/or consideration.

In the alternative, if the Examiner does not agree that this application is in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that this Amendment be entered for the purpose of appeal. This Amendment was not presented at an earlier date in view of the fact that the Examiner presented new grounds for rejection in this Final Office Action.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being unpatentable over Kahn et al. (U.S.6,525,775) in view of Cloutier (U.S. 5,966,387); and claim 20 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kahn et al. in view of Cloutier, and further in view of Markandey (U.S.2002/001989 A1). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

As noted above, the Applicants are concurrently submitting a certified English translation of the priority document (KR 10-1998-41937, filed on October 2, 1998), which predates the primary reference (Kahn et al., filed on October 9, 1998) used by the Examiner to reject the claims.

Cloutier alone fails to teach or suggest the present invention, as set forth in independent claims 1, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, and 16.

At least for the reasons described above, the Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of method steps and elements as set forth in each of independent claims 1, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, and 16 is not disclosed or made obvious by the cited references, including Kahn et al. and Cloutier.

While cited to reject dependent claim 20, Markandey cannot make up for the deficiencies of Kahn et al. and Cloutier.

Therefore, claims 1, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, and 16 are in condition for allowance.

Further, the Applicants respectfully submit that dependent claims 2-6, 13-15, and 17-20 are in condition for allowance due to their dependency from allowable independent claims, or due to the additional novel limitations set forth therein.

Therefore, all claims of the present application are in condition for allowance, and reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Since the remaining patents cited by the Examiner have not been utilized to reject claims, but merely to show the state of the art, no comment need be made with respect thereto.

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and that the present application is in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, he is invited to telephone Carl T. Thomsen (Reg. No. 50,786) at (703) 205-8000.

Pursuant to the provisions of 37 CFR 1.17 and 1.136(a), Applicants respectfully petition for a one (1) month extension of time for filing a response in connection with the present application. The required fee of \$110.00 is attached hereto.

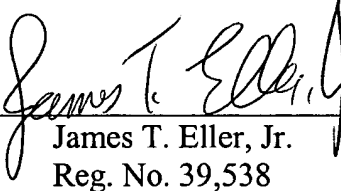
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If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17, particularly extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By 
James T. Eller, Jr.
Reg. No. 39,538

2950-0138P
JTE/CTT/ndb/slb

P. O. Box 747
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000

Attachment: Certified English translation of Priority Document